

The formation of a roster for garrison artillery batteries was entrusted to a special committee appointed for the purpose.

The committee was authorized at their discretion to purchase improved sights for rifled ordnance.

The committee of selection was empowered to make such rules and regulations as it might deem expedient regarding the personal qualifications necessary to election to the Shoeburyness team, and to reject candidates disqualified by these regulations.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MILITIA DEPARTMENT.

Col. Panet is to be congratulated on the admirable shape in which as Deputy Minister he presents this year's report, which we at length find time and space to notice briefly, and he is also to be complimented on the conciseness and brevity of his own report to the Minister, which introduces the volume and enumerates the results of the department's work up to the close of the year. From this we learn that the doings of the field force will be submitted in separate form, that there was an unexpended balance (omitting cents) of \$187,500 in the vote for 1884-5, caused by the transference of part of the pay for drill to the North-west account, also a balance of \$3,020 in the departmental salaries; the total expenditure being \$1,003,610, to partly offset which there is an income of \$18,944 from rents of properties and sales of stores. Attention is called to the necessity for developing the engineer and cavalry branches, and it is shown that from the six schools 231 certificates have been issued, leaving 109 candidates still attending the schools, or plucked. In the allusion to the cartridge factory no word is said as to the quality of the powder complained of last year, nor as to the doings of the ammunition commission. We find that on the 30th June, '85, there were 550 militia pensioners who received \$23,216, but this number is rapidly diminishing in consequence of the mortality amongst the veterans of 1812-15, their number having fallen from 464 to 328 between July and December. It is interesting to note that there are three centenarians on the list, and two men 83 years old. How these could have earned pensions at the tender age of nine years will probably puzzle the average observer.

Going on to Sir Frederick Middleton's report we find it more lengthy, and, as is natural, it goes more into details. It praises the Royal Military College, and suggests enlargements and improvements. He also recommends many changes with a view of increasing the efficiency of the cavalry school, of which, in common with all the school corps, he speaks in the highest terms. Incidentally he rather snubs the Gatlings by recommending that they be turned over to the infantry corps, and by stating that their effect in the North-west was chiefly moral. The general thinks the time has come to increase the strength of the infantry school corps so that they would form a strong regiment when brought together, and advocates for them Martinis, modern equipments, more rifle practice, and precedence for their officers as well as preference to R. M. C. graduates in appointments. After some hints for the improvement of summer camps he criticises the present equipment in very plain terms, but no more strongly than the occasion warrants, and in some general remarks advocates the reduction of the force to such a point that all could be drilled annually so as to be available amongst other things for Imperial service; also the extension of time for camp, the adoption of Martinis for the force and the stricter regulation of rifle and artillery associations. In this connection Sir Frederick makes a remark that will doubtless be promptly challenged, when he says, referring to firing at moving targets, that a "man with a good eye and a steady hand and nerve, who has, perhaps, never fired a shot, will pick it up nearly as quickly as the other, who has been undergoing an expensive training, which proves useless at the time of need." To obtain qualified musketry instructors he would have two or three officers sent to Hythe for a course, who in turn could coach other officers here, and he advocates paid adjutants for city regiments.

The reports of the several D. A. G's. follow, showing the number of men in their respective districts, the number who drilled, details of the several camps, &c., and each of these will be of great local interest in the district covered by it. The inspection reports of the several corps that performed drill are presented in tabular form, from which we glean that the Prince of Wales' Rifles with a figure of merit of 29.84, omitting the 86th Battalion's figure of 70.52 out of a possible 80, arrived at by some ingenious arithmetic, is the best shooting regiment, and No. 1 of the 13th, with the wonderfully high figure of 44.26, the best shooting company in the Dominion.

Next come reports of artillery inspection, showing the field batteries to be efficient with one exception, while with one or two exceptions the garrison batteries are in an unsatisfactory state, partaking somewhat of

the nature of poorly drilled infantrymen. The tables show that the Montreal Battery, Lieut. Col. Stevenson, with 308.4 marks is the most efficient field battery, and No. 2 of the P. E. I. brigade, Capt. Moore, with 108 marks the best garrison battery for the year.

Major Raban reports at length on the engineer corps, giving Capt. Macdougall the highest praise for the state in which he has the Charlottetown Co. He advocates an increase of the force, which should be put on a better footing as to rank of officers, equipments, &c.

The reports of the several schools of instruction show that they are doing good work, and there were granted during the year two engineer certificates, twenty-eight cavalry, fifty-three artillery and one hundred and fifty infantry certificates.

The R. M. C. report gives the results of the June examinations and the names of cadets and graduates who received Imperial commissions, as already reported in our columns, and Col. Hewett makes a few modest suggestions for the improvement of the college at a moderate cost.

The Director of Stores reports a large excess in issues of clothing in consequence of the North-west expedition, and announces what will be grateful to all patriotic souls, that all materials are now satisfactorily manufactured in Canada. The North-west stores will be reported on separately, but we may say in advance that Col. Macpherson's branch performed admirably the work demanded from it by the exigencies of the case, and inspired confidence in his system of issue. There were issued 350,059 rounds of ball, and 177,290 rounds of blank, small-arm ammunition, for practice during the year, while 595,848 rounds of Snider ball, 39,496 rounds of Martini-Henry, 150 rounds of Colts' revolver, and 1,000 rounds of Snider blank were sold, for \$10,913.34. Nearly 8 tons of powder and 6,307 friction-tubes were also issued to the artillery for practice and salutes.

The architect's report shows the repairs made to the several Departmental properties.

Major Prévost reports the cartridge factory at Quebec in good order and capable of supplying any probable demand. He has made several improvements in the machinery, and advocates fitting to the present machines the necessary parts for making Martini ammunition, which could be done at a small expense. Some tests and experiments are also detailed.

The report concludes with the militia list, corrected to 1st January, on which we have already remarked at some length. We propose making further reference to the report as occasion may arise.

THE TARGET.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MANITOBA PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting was held on the 16th, Lieut.-Col. MacKeand in the chair. There was a very large attendance, nearly one hundred being present.

The annual report was adopted. It reviewed the proceedings of the association during the year, and showed a most satisfactory condition of its affairs. The annual meeting in August was a success, and a surplus of \$300 remained on hand. The council expressed regret at the loss of Sedley Blanchard and Lieut. Swinford. At the prize meeting many complaints were expressed on account of the unserviceable character of the ammunition purchased from the Government. Appreciation of the services of Major Boswell as senior range officer, and Sergt.-Major Watson as superintendent of the marking, was expressed. A reduction of expenditure was noted with pleasure. The incoming council are urged to obtain an increased grant from the Dominion and Provincial governments. The report comments severely on the inadequacy of the Government allowance of ammunition, and urges an increase from 20 rounds to 100.

The auditor's report and secretary-treasurer's statement were adopted.

The following officers were elected: Patron, Hon. D. A. Smith; vice patrons, Hon. John Norquay, Mayor Westbrook and C. J. Brydges; president, Commissioner Wrigley; 1st vice president, Major Bedson; 2nd vice president, Major Boswell. The election of secretary-treasurer was postponed. The following council were elected: Messrs. Balfour, Mitchell, Clarke, Cates, Clementi-Smith, Sergt. McRae, Ruttan, Shelton, Wastie, Bruce, Dr. Clarke and Chief Murray. Lt.-Cols. Scott and McDonald were appointed representatives to the Dominion Association for 1886. Messrs. Graburn and Ptolemy were re-appointed auditors.

Moved by Color-Sergt. Mitchell, seconded by Capt. Graburn, that it is the opinion of the M.R.A. at this, their annual meeting, that in view of the fact of the Martini-Henry being the only rifle now used by the volunteers of Great Britain that it is advisable to encourage the use of that weapon more largely in Canada, and that the motion be sent to the D.R.A. as an expression of our opinion.

Moved by Major Cates, seconded by Capt. Kennedy, that in the opinion of this meeting the use of sighting shots should be discontinued.

Some general business was transacted, including the passing of a vote of thanks to Col. MacKeand, and the meeting adjourned.—*Manitoban*.

G. G. F. G.—At a meeting of the officers of the Governor General's Foot Guards, held on Monday evening last, Major Macpherson in the chair, it was decided to commence the annual drill on Monday the 6th April, and to drill continuously until the 24th May, when the regiment would be inspected. A committee was also appointed to assist the commanding officer in making the necessary arrangements for a trip to Kingston. We have no doubt that the corps will reflect credit on the Capital on its visit to the limestone city.